THE

Theatrical Observer.

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 63. Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1822. Price 1d.

DRURY LANE.

The New serious Drama entitled *The Pirate*, which was produced, last night for the first time, is, as we have before mentioned, taken from the Novel of that name. The Author of the latter has produced in this instance a work somewhat similar in its leading features to several of his other Novels. He takes the *history* and *topography* of a country, and intent on drawing a picture of its public events, or manners and customs of a particular period, combined with a description of its scenery, he contrives a *story* that shall exhibit and illustrate each. It has happened that in some of his attempts of this kind, he has raised a considerable interest in the characters and events he has developed, and in these have been excellent materials for a dramatic structure on the same bases. We cannot, however, admit the *Pirate* to be of this description. Its principal charm lies in the delineation of character by artful, and sometimes delicate touches, whilst the incidents have little that is bold or new. The story is not of a nature that can be made prominent and effective without much detail; which always proves a clog on the moving business of the stage.

Thus *The Pirate*, dramatised as it has been with considerable fidelity and scenic talent, and aided by the charms of sweet music, and beautiful and appropriate scenery, and represented on the whole in an admirable manner, yet does it not stand clear and correct before our imagination, nor yield us any thing approaching that satisfaction and delight which the minute descriptions in the original afford. Those who have read the Novel will hardly be pleased at the parts that are omitted; and those who have not, will find some difficulty in comprehending the plot. We shall not attempt to give a lengthened statement of it. The drama commences with the saving of *Cleveland* (the Pirate) by *Mordaunt Merton*,—the former then visits *The Udaller* to obtain restitution of his plundered property,—the loves of *Minna* and *Brenda* the

Udaller's daughters, are then made apparent,—the former for *Cleveland*,—the latter for *Mordaunt*, who severally return their affection. *Norna*, a mystic being, who hovers around the lovers, instigates *Mordaunt* to suspect the motives of *Cleveland*—a coldness between the youths ensues, and at length reaches to mutual defiance,—they fight, Mordaunt is wounded, cured by Norna, and finally follows with her to Kirkwall, whither Cleveland has gone to meet a vessel he has discovered to be his consort, and whither also *The Udaller* and his daughters, and Mordaunt's Father the recluse of Sumburgh have also proceeded to. Here after contending schemes amongst the pirates interviews between the lovers and Norna, Cleveland, and the father of Mordaunt,—then the capture of the Rovers,—the destruction of their vessel,—the discovery of Cleveland being the son of Norna,—and now a pardoned Rover, and next a forgiven suitor of the fair Minna,—here after these events the curtain drops over the prospect of happiness thus shed around. The Piece was much applauded throughout, but towards the conclusion some opposition shewed itself, but we think the great majority was in favor of its repetition, which was accordingly announced.

We regretted that it had not been possible to have included the *Agriculturist*, *Mr. Yellowley*, and his economical sister *Miss Baby*. Considerable humor might have been thrown into their parts which would have materially relieved the *sombre* cast of the Piece.

The House was crowded in every part except the Second-Circle of Boxes, and the Galleries.

We shall speak of the Performers, &c. in our next Number.

COVENT GARDEN.

The Opera of *Rob Roy Macgregor*, was performed, last night, to a numerous audience. Miss STEPHENS as *Diana Vernon*, and Mr. MACREADY as *Rob*, met with great applause.

☞ The first and second volumes are bound, and ready for delivery.

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Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening will be performed the

Two Gentlemen of Verona.

Duke of Milan, M.. EGERTON.
Antonio, Mr. CHAPMAN, Proteus, Mr. ABBOTT,
Valentine, Mr. JONES, Sir Thurio, Mr. FARREN,
Sir Eglamour, Mr. HUNT, Launce, Mr. LISTON
Speed, Mr. BLANCHARD,
Ubaldo, Mr. DURUSET, Carlos, Mr. TAYLOR,
Julia, Miss M. TREE.
Sylvia, Miss HALLANDE.
Lucetta, Miss BEAUMONT.

To conclude with, a Grand, and Comic Pantomime,

Harlequin & Mother Bunch; Or, the Yellow Dwarf.

Characters in the Pantomine, and Succession of the Scenery.
THE ENTRANCE to the PALACE OF THE KING of the GOLD MINES
King of the Gold Mines, (afterwards Harlequin) Mr. ELLAR.
Guinea Pig, (afterwards Harlequin's Lacquey) Mr. I. S. GRIMALDI.
THE SANDY DESERT,
In the midst of which grows the ORANGE TREE.
Mother Bunch (the Desert Fairy) Master LONGHURST.
Yellow Dwarf, (afterwards Clown) Mr. GRIMALDI.
The Princess All Fair, (afterwards Colombine) Miss E. DENNETT
THE CHAMBER OF THE PRINCESS.
The Queen of Golconda, (afterwards Pantaloon) Mr. BARNES.
THE NUPTIAL HALL.
THE CASTLE OF POLISHED STEEL.
The Garden of the Castle. The Sea Port of Golconda.
VIEW FROM MARGATE PIER. STEAM PACKET.
Billingsgate, London Bridge, and the Pool. A Street in London.
OUTSIDE OF WESTMINSTER HALL.
Inside of the Court of King's Bench. Blackheath, near London.
JOHNNY GILPIN's HOUSE, CHEAPSIDE.
The Turnpike-House—Stamford-Hill—The Bell at Edmonton—The Rotunda of the Bank of England.
THE PALACE OF THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES

XUM

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening will be performed a New Serious Play (with music) called

THE PIRATE.

The Music, chiefly by Mr. T. Cooke.

Principal Characters by

Mr. COOPER, Mr. PENLEY,
Mr. POPE, Mr. MUNDEN, Mr. LOVEDAY,
Mr. GATTIE, Mr. HARLEY,
Mr. SMITH, Mr. FOOTE, Mr. VINING.

Messrs. Dobbs, Read, Taylor, Willmott, Webster, Howell, D. Smith, Randall, Sheriff, Isaacs, Turnour, Seymour, Guisso, Hope, Guischard, Rames, Morris, Goodson, Goodson, jun. &c.

Madame VESTRIS, Miss CUBITT,
Mrs. BLAND, Miss POVEY, Miss TREE,
and Mrs. W. WEST.

Messdms. Barnard, Margerum, Hill, Webster, Philips, Edwards, Cooper, Willmott, Mallard, Taylor Smith, Best, Tokely, Valancy, &c.

To conclude with the Farce of The

Prisoner at Large.

Lord Eamond, Mr. BARNARD, Count Fripon, Mr. GATTIE,
Old Dowdle, Mr. MUNDEN,
Jack Connor, Mr. RUSSELL, Muns, Mr. KNIGHT,
Frill, Mr. VINING. Father Frank, Mr. DOBBS,
Tough, Mr. MEREDITH.
Adelaide, Miss SMITHSON, Rachael, Mrs. ORGER,
Mary, Mrs. HARLOWE.